

Inside MISSOURI HIGHER EDUCATION

College access is key to reaching Missouri's Big Goal



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Missouri Department of Higher Education

*Building Missouri's future...
by degrees®*

College Application
Week assists more than
2,000 students

New report ranks
Missouri 12th in number
of international students

Seven colleges receive
grants to expand nursing
education programs

New Missouri Learning
Standards website
launched

Clayton Shilling, a student at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, submitted this photo for the 2013 Study Missouri Photo Contest. Shilling wrote: "This photo was taken in Nuremburg, Germany in February 2012. It was by far one of the coldest days of the year. The temperatures had not reached double digits in over a week. Nuremburg was a brief 40-minute train ride from Ansbach, where I lived, and I decided to go for the day. The photo was taken from the castle that sits high above the city. Standing there, surveying the whole town and watching the smoke rise out of chimneys was breathtaking. It made me enjoy winter just a little bit, despite my frozen fingers."

The photo competition was open to international students studying at a Missouri college or university or Missouri students studying abroad. The Study Missouri Consortium is a group of more than 40 colleges and universities in Missouri dedicated to promoting international education. For more information, visit <http://studymissouri.net>.

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It is a vital part of our efforts to achieve Missouri’s Big Goal – for 60 percent of adults to have a postsecondary degree or certificate by the year 2025.

Getting to college can be daunting, especially for students whose families have little or no experience with the process. From college applications and financial aid forms to scholarships and student loans, the details and the deadlines can be overwhelming.

That is why the Department of Higher Education is aggressively reaching out to prospective college students and their families across Missouri.

- College fair exhibits and presentations at schools throughout the state provide our staff with opportunities to get the right information into the hands of Missouri students preparing for their college years.
- For the past six years, the FAFSA frenzy program has been assisting families with the oftentimes complicated process of filling out the Federal Application for Student Aid form necessary to become eligible for grants, scholarships and student loans.
- College Application Week – new to Missouri this year – provided a focal point for assisting students with the process of submitting applications to the colleges they are interested in attending. We know that a college application can open up a dialogue between a student and an institution that increases the chances of that student arriving on campus ready to work toward a degree.

There is still much to be done. We recently created a College Access Advisory Committee to help us figure out how to reach even more students. In the months ahead, the committee will look at ways to help bring higher education opportunities to an increasing number of Missouri students, especially those who would be the first in their families to attend college.

The members of this committee work with high school and college students every day. We know their expertise and experience will provide important insights as we continue to break down barriers to higher education and help more Missouri students reach their academic and career goals.

David R. Russell
Commissioner of Higher Education

One of the most important things we do at the Department of Higher Education is help remove barriers to college access and completion.



DECEMBER

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- Federal Student Aid Training Conference, Dec. 3-6
- Association For Career and Technical Education VISION 2013, Dec. 4-7
- Missouri Coordinated School Health Coalition, Dec. 5-7
- National Training for Counselors and Mentors Workshops:
 - Columbia, Dec. 6
 - St. Louis, Dec. 9
 - Kansas City, Rolla and Springfield, Dec. 10
 - Cape Girardeau, Dec. 11
 - St. Joseph, Dec. 13
- Webinar: Paving the Way to College for Students Experiencing Homelessness, Dec. 11
- Webinar: McKinney-Vento 101 - Knowing and Applying the Law, Dec. 12
- Christmas Day - State Offices Closed, Dec. 25
- Improving Teacher Quality Grant Proposals Due, Dec. 31

JANUARY

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- New Year's Day - State Offices Closed, Jan. 1
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - State Offices Closed, Jan. 20
- What Research Tells Us About College Going and Creating a College-Going Culture, Jan. 22
- COTA Conference on Transfer and Articulation, Jan. 29

FEBRUARY

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- Financial Aid Awareness Month, Feb. 1-28
- College Board 2014 Midwestern Regional, Feb. 9-11
- FAFSA Frenzy Main Event Date, Feb. 9
- Lincoln Day - State Offices Closed, Feb. 12
- Washington's Birthday - State Offices Closed, Feb. 17
- Best Practices for Creating a College-Going Culture, Feb. 19
- Collegiate DECA Conference, Feb. 27-28

Interested in promoting a higher education event?

Send your information to amanda.brown@dhe.mo.gov.

2013-2014

College access is key to reaching Missouri's Big Goal



Every spring, as one academic year comes to a close, the Department of Higher Education's student access and success group is busy planning for the next.

The seven-member staff has a brief window of time at the end of May to reflect on the past year's accomplishments and begin preparing for the months ahead.



The 2013-2014 academic year has been an eventful one for the group, formerly known as the marketing and customer services unit. With a recent name change that better reflects the team's mission, the unit has stepped up its efforts to provide more Missouri students with information about planning and paying for college.



The group exhibits at college fairs, supports the Missouri College Application Week program, manages the statewide FAFSA Frenzy program, develops informational videos, conducts "Planning and Paying for College" presentations, administers the Default Prevention Grant Program and works to increase financial literacy awareness.

David Russell, Missouri's commissioner of higher education, says the unit's outreach efforts are at an all-time high and support Missouri's Big Goal for higher education.



"By 2018, nearly 60 percent of the jobs in Missouri will require some form of higher education," Russell says. "Missouri's Big Goal is for 60 percent

of working adults in the state to have a professional certificate or a two-year or four-year degree by the year 2025."

Currently, about 46 percent of Missouri adults hold postsecondary credentials.

College fair connections

The student access and success unit kicked off its 2013-2014 outreach agenda with 73 college fairs in August, September and October. The Missouri Association for College Admission Counseling aids the group in scheduling the events, which attract thousands of students across the state.

Lisa Wilson, outreach services coordinator, and Kim Howe, client service representative, travel hundreds of miles each year to attend the college fairs and connect with students to help them make informed decisions about postsecondary education.

The group recently completed the college fair season with a total of 114 events. More than 21,000 high school students received publications, produced annually by the department, to assist with the college planning process.

Missouri's BIG GOAL



College Application Week in Salem and the St. Louis area

Howe says the college fairs provide an avenue for students and parents to communicate openly with department staff to identify the best tactics for planning and paying for postsecondary education.

“We enjoy the in-person access given to us at college fairs,” Howe says. “It is our goal to help ease the minds of parents and students who look to us to provide answers to questions that often arise during the college-prep process.”

Application assistance

A new initiative for the access and success unit this year is designed to help students successfully navigate the college application process. The group – with assistance from the Missouri College Advising Corps – launched Missouri College Application Week Oct. 21-25 at 26 high schools in the Kansas City and St. Louis areas and the south central part of the state.

More than 2,000 high school seniors received assistance with college applications, letters of interest and other activities. Participating high schools provided time and resources during the school day for all seniors interested in completing college applications. Students

were assisted by advisers from the Missouri College Advising Corps, a group of recent college graduates currently working in high schools with a large percentage of students who are less likely to attend college.

by the American Council on Education and modeled after an approach first developed in North Carolina. Missouri was one of 25 states hosting College Application Week events this fall.

has provided professional assistance to students and families to help them complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. In 2013, the program saw a record number of high school counselors and financial aid and college access professionals serving as volunteers at 55 events across Missouri. A total of 1,470 students received assistance during the 2013 FAFSA Frenzy.

For the 2014 program, 77 locations have been approved to host 81 FAFSA Frenzy events in January, February and March. With an increase in the number of sites and events, volunteers plan to assist 2,000 high school seniors in 2014. Julie Meyer, director of the student access and success group, coordinates the annual program with assistance from Wilson and Jaron Vail, outreach program specialist. The FAFSA Frenzy program – like all of the department’s outreach services – is provided at no cost to Missouri residents.

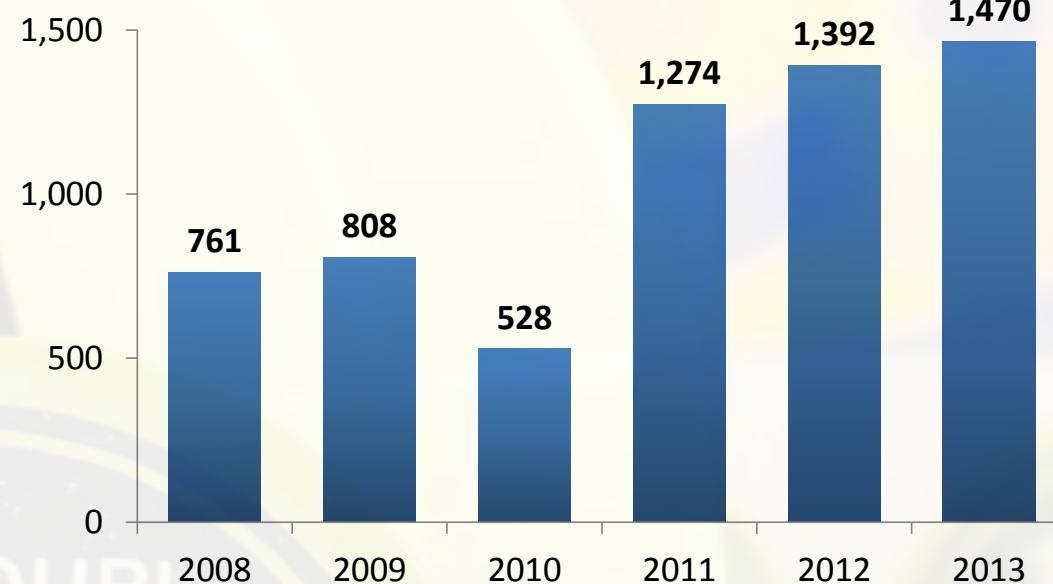
A YouTube view

To supplement the information provided during its outreach events, the student access and success unit has produced a number of informational videos that are available to view via the department’s YouTube channel.

Lesley Hendrix, training service coordinator, works alongside several staff members

Missouri’s FAFSA Frenzy

Number of FAFSA filers served



The department plans to expand the College Application Week program to more high schools next year.

The program is part of the American College Application Campaign, supported

Financial aid frenzy

With College Application Week concluded, the student access and success unit turned its attention to the 2014 statewide FAFSA Frenzy program. Since 2008, the program



FAFSA Frenzy activities in Columbia

to create a broad range of short, informational videos for students, parents, financial aid officers, high school counselors and college access professionals.

Videos include: “The FAFSA4caster,” “Missouri State Aid Programs,” and “Federal Student Aid Programs.” Hendrix says the videos are an effective means of communication between the department and the audiences it serves.

“YouTube allows us to provide useful and relevant videos in an easy-to-use format,” says Hendrix. “YouTube videos give our audience the ability to view and share our information with others.”

Planning and paying presentations

Hendrix, Howe and Wilson also conduct customized “Planning and Paying for College” outreach presentations, which cover the basics of financial aid for students and their families. The department typically provides between 35 and 45 in-person presentations annually.

The presentations are scheduled at the request of high school counselors and college access professionals throughout the state. Requests can be submitted through the department’s online [Speaking Event Request Form](#).

In-person presentations are also conducted for two important, but often overlooked, areas in postsecondary education: default prevention and financial literacy. Marilyn Landrum, student assistance associate for default prevention, and Sarah Schedler, program specialist for default prevention, head up the unit’s efforts to provide information to educators, students and default prevention/aversion specialists. On average, the duo conducts 12 to 15 financial literacy presentations each year.

“It is our hope that when we have the opportunity to go into a classroom, or speak to a student organization, the participants will come away thinking about their financial future, how the decisions they make today can affect their financial future, or at least think about how much they’re borrowing for their education,” says Landrum. “We also want students to be proactive about looking for ‘free’ money to help pay higher education costs.”

Landrum encourages students to seek out scholarships and grants to reduce the amount of money they need to borrow – and repay – for college expenses. To keep student loan delinquency and default rates as low as possible in Missouri, the department established the Default Prevention Grant Program in 2001. Since

its inception, the program has enabled colleges and universities to launch default prevention programs on their campuses, with notable results. The state’s three-year student loan default rate is 13.1 percent, compared to 14.7 percent nationwide.

For the 2013-2014 academic year, the grant program awarded \$885,724 to 34 colleges and universities to promote financial literacy among their students.

Each year, Landrum and Schedler visit the institutions participating in the program. Schedler says the knowledge they gain from administrators during the visits is essential to improving the financial mindset of today’s college student.

“We love to see and hear firsthand the initiatives schools are able to implement with the grant funding. We learn so much more about each school’s effort when we visit them in person,” says Schedler. “This gives us a deeper understanding of what is truly successful in default prevention, which we then share with other institutions.”

A look ahead

As the student access and success unit sets out to help more Missourians succeed in higher education – one academic year at a time – the staff is seeking more opportunities to work with college access experts from across the state. The newly formed Missouri College Access Advisory Committee is the latest effort to bring representatives from various backgrounds together to discuss ways to effectively reach students.

Last spring, 35 individuals were selected to serve on the committee, which held its first meeting Nov. 14 in Columbia. Members include postsecondary education professionals, K-12 counselors and administrators, and representatives from college access organizations. Their insight will be used to enhance the department’s outreach efforts in the months ahead.

The student access and success unit estimates that it will provide outreach services to more than 28,000 high school and college students during the 2013-2014 academic year. The group plans to reach even more students next year as the department works to achieve its higher education goals for Missouri.

SMART ABOUT SPENDING 101



Marilyn Landrum, a default prevention and financial literacy expert at the Missouri Department of Higher Education, highlights ways in which students can save money while attending college.

When college students are searching for the right credit card they should focus on features that will aid in building “Grade A” credit.

College students often find themselves in a position to make some financial decisions on their own for the first time. They can decide whether or not to take out the maximum amount of student loans, how they’re going to set up their budget, and what they want to spend their money on. Fortunately, the Credit Card Act of 2010 made it more difficult for inexperienced young people to get in trouble with credit cards.

Credit card companies are now prohibited from issuing cards to consumers who are younger than 21 years of age — unless they have the ability to make the required payments or they can get their parent or someone else with the ability to make the payments to co-sign.

That being said, credit cards aren’t all bad. It’s nice to have a credit card to fall back on in the case of an emergency, such as a trip to the emergency room, an unexpected auto repair or towing charge. Springing for pizza for friends does not constitute an emergency, nor does a spur-of-the-moment road trip!

A few things students should consider when selecting a credit card are:

- Does the company charge an annual fee?
- What is the interest rate/APR (annual percentage rate)?
- Does the card have a grace period?
- What is the credit limit?

Not all credit card companies charge an annual fee for the privilege of using their card. Students should look for one that does not. They must be careful about “teaser” rates. Some cards offer a very low interest rate for the first year to get your attention, and then they raise it. Cardholders should be sure to find out what their interest rate will be after the introductory offer.

Students also should know the grace period is the length of time they will not be charged interest. For example, if you make a purchase a couple weeks before your payment is due and you pay the full amount you’ve charged by your due date, you may not be charged interest for using the card. However, some companies may begin charging interest as soon as a purchase is made with no offer of a grace period. Students also should understand that their credit limit is the maximum amount of money they can charge on their card.

It is important to remind students to charge only what they can afford to pay off when the bill comes due. If they can’t pay the full amount, they should at least pay more than the minimum payment and not charge anything else until balance is paid off.

Research is key! [Bankrate.com](http://www.bankrate.com) has a calculator that students can use to choose the right card for them.

What’s the bottom line here? Unless students really need a credit card, they shouldn’t apply for one.

The Missouri Department of Higher Education wants to hear from you!

Send your comments and questions about the latest issue of Inside Missouri Higher Education to <http://www.dhe.mo.gov/limesurvey/index.php?sid=47653&lang=en>.

Your feedback may be featured in a future issue of Inside Missouri Higher Education.





As seniors in high school, the Missouri Department of Higher Education's interns are progressing along the journey to college. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, scholarship opportunities, college admission processes and tuition expenses are among the challenges the interns are facing this academic year. Along their journey, the MDHE interns are logging their personal experiences and sharing them with you to create open dialogue between students and postsecondary administrators, college access professionals and guidance counselors.



Send your suggestions about the “Journey to College” to <http://www.dhe.mo.gov/limesurvey/index.php?sid=47653&lang=en>. Your response may be featured in the March issue of *Inside Missouri Higher Education*.

The balancing act of college life by Hanna Berendzen and Eddie Crouse

During senior year, many students are preoccupied with deciding where they will go to college. They often don't take the time to think about their upcoming college life and how they're going to manage their time. It may be difficult to juggle the academics and social activities that come with college living. As seniors, we've decided to plan ahead, but there are some things we still aren't so sure about.

The first semester of freshman year introduces drastic changes in the lives we have known as teenagers. Suddenly, we have to transition from the eight-hour block schedule we had in high school to a more fluid college schedule. Each day of the week could look dramatically different: maybe on Monday we'll be unlucky enough to have all morning classes, but on Tuesday have only one afternoon lab. We've spent all of our lives – especially since kindergarten – with a rigid routine, which, for the most part, kept things organized. With our classes broken up and interspersed throughout the week, college life presents new challenges.

Aside from the homework, which wasn't usually overwhelming, all of the educating in high school happened during the 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. time slot. After school was dedicated to hanging out with friends, sports, part-time jobs or extracurricular activities. College seems to present the great challenge of time management. How do you spend time with friends when they have differing class schedules? Is there time to join clubs? How many hours are supposed to be dedicated to studying? Without parents and teachers to hold us accountable, it's going to be hard to make sure we're actually spending our time wisely.

We were told that elementary school was supposed to prepare us for middle school, middle school for high school, and high school for college; however, as much help as we've received in the college application process, no one really has told us how college actually works. In high school math, there was homework every day, quizzes every now and then to gauge our progress, and then a test at the end of every unit. But how does Calc I work in college when we may only be meeting two or three

times a week? How do the expectations change once we enter a 500-student lecture hall for Psych 101? What are the writing conventions and procedures for the 9 a.m. English Comp. class?

It seems like even if high schools are providing the right skills and knowledge to prepare students for college, freshmen are still in for a rude awakening when they are up until 3 a.m. finishing all the papers they put off to the last possible minute. What can we do now to prepare for the upcoming changes in our schedules?

Aside from the academic demands of college, meeting new people is another major issue. Once you arrive at college, you'll probably find a group of friends you stay close to throughout your journey, but what about your old high school friends? As seniors, we've been discussing where all of us are going to college and how we're going to keep in touch. Is it possible to stay close to your friends when you're miles apart? What's the best way to keep in touch?

Also as seniors, we've become close to the underclassmen at our high school, and we would like to stay connected with them when we're away at college. Social media is a very good way to know what's going on in other people's lives and to share important events, but are there other ways to merge your “old life” with your “new college life?” We think that sending a text or maybe even a tweet to your friends that are not with you at college offers one way to stay in touch.

Another big aspect of college life is extra activities such as sporting events, sororities/fraternities, clubs, etc. We have not made up our minds about what school we're going to attend; however, if opportunities to join a Greek organization arise, we do plan on rushing. One thing we're not sure of is how much time a commitment like this will take?

We are also huge sports fans, and there is nothing better than showing your school spirit and attending the events. However, if there's a big game the night before an exam, is there a way to manage time for both? High school goes by faster than you

think, and we've heard that college goes by even faster. We want to make sure we can keep up with our studies, but also participate in school activities. What's the best way to do both?

Managing classes and extra activities is hard work, but fitting in time to see family and old friends would be a great way to be with the people that helped you from the start. We know when we go away for college we might make a trip back to our hometown on weekends we have free to see old friends who are still in high school. We think it would also be a good idea to have our close friends from high school get together for a mini reunion. This would present an opportunity to catch up on everyone else's college experiences.

College will be here before we know it, and we're thinking about some of the uncertainties that we and other seniors are facing.

What do we need to know to help us merge our new lives with the old?

Deputy Commissioner's Corner

Leroy Wade, deputy commissioner of the Missouri Department of Higher Education, covers higher education issues as they unfold at the state Capitol.



Distance-education authorization

It has almost become a cliché that distance education will change the way higher education is delivered. While it has been slow coming, it is clear distance education is gaining momentum and is reaching the critical mass necessary to have a significant impact on how we access higher education.

“The Digital Revolution and Higher Education” (Parker 2011), reports that 89 percent of public colleges and universities offer online classes, and 15 percent of college students who took at least one online course completed a degree online. According to the 2011 CDW-G 21st Century Campus Report, 65 percent of students have taken an online course. However, this movement faces a potential barrier that is rooted in the mid-20th century. That barrier is state authorization.

State authorization of postsecondary education is the product of our constitutional structure that reserves education as a state power and responsibility. Although some state regulatory structures date back to the 19th century, many appeared during the education boom of the 1950s and 1960s. While that boom resulted in the formation of many of our current education providers, including the community college sector, it also fostered an explosion of substandard, diploma-mill suspect institutions. By

1985, Missouri was one of the last states to adopt postsecondary education authorization requirements and did so because it had gained a reputation as a haven for such operations. Because of the nature and timing of this genesis, most of these oversight processes were designed to provide quality assurance and consumer protection in a world of place-based education. And while there has been some criticism of how states have approached this issue, the processes have been relatively successful in providing protection and quality assurance to students.

The problem is that this system has resulted in a patchwork of requirements that are widely variable when viewed from a multi-state or national perspective. State regulations fluctuate from the highly prescriptive to the nonexistent. In addition, fees vary just as widely. The result is a cumbersome, complicated and expensive arrangement for institutions that offer distance education to students from multiple states. It can also result in a substantial burden for states by requiring oversight that in some instances provides little value to students or institutions.

In response, multiple groups have been working to devise a system that will continue to provide an adequate level of consumer protection while

simplifying the process. The result, State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements, or SARA, is built on the acceptance of an institution's home state confirmation that the institution's programs meet agreed-upon standards. Because it is structured around a set of commonly accepted standards used by all participating states, this proposed system will be more efficient, effective and uniform with regard to standards of practice. In addition, it is hoped this approach will prove more effective in dealing with quality and integrity issues that sometimes arise in distance-education programs, and it will be less costly for states, institutions and, ultimately, students.

Beginning in early 2014, this process will be administered by the four regional higher-education compacts. For Missouri, administration will come from the Midwest Higher Education Compact. In order to ensure an appropriate level of consistency and cooperation across the regional compacts, a National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements will provide a national context for this effort. That group held its initial meeting in early November and took several actions that provide a foundation for continued progress in implementing this initiative, including the acceptance of the agreements of all four regional compacts.

I am very excited about this effort and the prospect it creates for establishing a rational and reliable platform for interstate delivery of distance education. That does not mean this effort is not without its issues and problems. One of the benefits, that participation is voluntary for both states and institutions, is also a potential problem. Because some states will participate early and others may never join, issues with uniformity, at least the near term, will continue. While I have

no doubt there will be other bumps in the road, I am optimistic that all of the outstanding issues can be resolved.

So you may ask, what is happening in Missouri to get this going? First, the Department of Higher Education has provided the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education with regular reports on the progress of this effort, both at the regional and national level. We are committed to maintaining that communication so Missouri institutions are prepared to participate, if they so choose.

In addition, we are working with policy makers to draft the legislation needed for Missouri to participate. This legislation will authorize participation in the reciprocity process and establish a foundation for the reviews and approvals necessary for states and institutions to meet the minimum requirements established by the region. I am optimistic that with the institutional interest and support we have already seen, this legislation can be enacted during the upcoming legislative session. This would position Missouri to be among the first tier of states to participate, starting sometime in 2014.

If distance education is to reach its full potential, it is essential that this unique effort to establish interstate cooperation and trust be successful. I hope Missouri will be among the early participants so we can reap the resulting benefits. If you have an interest in this issue, please feel free to contact the department for additional information or visit www.mhec.org or www.nc-sara.org.

89
percent
of public
colleges
and
universities
offer
online
classes

15
percent
of college
students
who took
at least
one online
course
completed
a degree
online



NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

MCC awarded \$12.2 million for student service programs

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Metropolitan Community College more than \$12 million for its five-campus system to enhance its support of at-risk and underserved students.

The grant is part of the USDE's Strengthening Institutions Program, which helps postsecondary schools expand their capacity to serve students through improving and strengthening academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability and building a framework to help students complete college.

MCC received three grants totaling more than \$12.2 million. One grant was awarded to the entire institution; one was awarded to the MCC-Blue River campus in Independence; and one was awarded to the MCC-Penn Valley campus in Kansas City. The funding will be distributed over a five-year period.

The grants will support the creation and expansion of a number of student service programs and curricular enhancements, including:

- Improvement of developmental education courses, including enhanced tutoring.
- Expansion of peer mentoring.
- Enhancement of the First Year Experience program to include an intensive guidance practice called intrusive advising.

- Modification of the student orientation program.
- Implementation of technology improvements to increase student success and assist in closing the "digital divide."

"We know that many students who come to MCC have high potential for success but are not quite prepared for college-level studies," said Nancy Russell, executive director of the college's Institute for Workforce Innovation. "Having the financial resources to incorporate these intensive support systems – many of which we have already piloted and are proven to be effective – will be invaluable to our students."

Maria Lopez-Gutierrez, a first-year nursing student at MCC, says she will benefit from the help provided by the additional resources.

"I'm in a tutoring class for pharmacology. That class hasn't even started yet, but we have the opportunity to receive tutoring so we have a heads up before we get into the class," said Lopez-Gutierrez.

To be eligible for funds through the Strengthening Institutions Program, colleges must serve a substantial number of students receiving federal student aid and have low per-student expenditures.

Five universities partnering to deliver agricultural course work

Five Missouri state universities have created a partnership that will share the delivery of agricultural course work in an effort to produce high-quality agribusiness graduates across the state.

The collaboration between Southeast Missouri State University, Truman State University, Missouri State University, University of Central Missouri and Northwest Missouri State University will allow undergraduate students to take agriculture courses not offered at their own higher education institution.

"Students across Missouri will share in the expertise of five universities, allowing every student to participate in courses that are taught by the institution with the best experience," said Dr. Mike Aide, chair of Southeast's Department of Agriculture. "For example, students at Truman may take irrigation management from Southeast, whereas Southeast students may take dairy science from Missouri State University."

Aide says the project will involve linking resources between the five universities. Students will benefit through the delivery of online agricultural courses, the development of mini-courses for

extension and continuing education, and the assessment of curriculum with input from agribusinesses. Faculty at each university also will benefit from opportunities to share expertise with peers at other Missouri universities.

The goal of the partnership, Aide says, is to guarantee an agriculture curriculum that will produce graduates with the skills needed by agribusinesses. Ultimately, the agribusiness industry will have access to a well-qualified work force as a result of students' exposure to a wider range of course materials and experiences.

The collaboration, Aide says, is vital for sustaining agribusiness. Projections indicate that by 2015, there will be 54,400 agriculture job openings nationwide but only 29,300 agriculture graduates to fill those positions. Missouri's agriculture economy contributes 19 percent of the state's gross domestic product and employs 20 percent of the labor force.

The partnership is being funded through a \$570,000 grant awarded to Missouri State University by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.



William Woods now debt free following retirement of bonds

William Woods University has joined a small group of private colleges that have become debt free. Dr. Jahnae H. Barnett, WWU president, announced during her back-to-school address in August that the university would pay off the remainder of \$8 million in bonds issued in the late 1990s on Sept. 1.

Barnett noted the bond payments were scheduled to continue until 2025.

“As we reviewed our options, we discovered we could save more than \$1.3 million by paying off the bonds in September,” Barnett said. “This savings, coupled with the refinancing of the bond in 2008, resulted in a total savings of \$2.8 million during the shortened lifetime of the bond.”

The early payment of the bonds is a demonstration of the university’s sound financial management and return on investment resulting from a conservative approach to the management of its endowment, Barnett said.

“It is a common practice that most institutions of higher education will use the earnings from their endowment for operational expenses. Since 2000, William Woods has not used endowment earnings to bolster our annual operational budget. Instead, these funds have been made available for reinvestment,” Barnett said.

These financial strategies have had a major impact on the bottom line of the university.

“For 13 consecutive years, William Woods has ended each fiscal year in the black. We have never gone over budget,” Barnett said.

She added that the university’s sound financial base has been bolstered by responding to the ever-changing needs of students over the years. In addition to a strong on-campus undergraduate enrollment, the university’s evening programs and the newly developed online programs are thriving.

“Even though we demonstrate conservative financial practices, we have always known that we have to take educated risks as we move forward academically,” Barnett said.

Recently, two educational ranking services, AC Online and College Database, recognized William Woods for providing high quality education at an affordable price.

“From our faculty and staff, to our alumni and donors, everyone works to make William Woods a great place for our students to succeed, both in the classroom and in life after graduation,” Barnett said.

2014 state holiday schedule

The State of Missouri recently announced its holiday schedule for 2014. Most state offices, including the Missouri Department of Higher Education, will be closed:

- Jan. 1 (Wednesday): New Year’s Day
- Jan. 20 (Monday): Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Feb. 12 (Wednesday): Lincoln Day
- Feb. 17 (Monday): Washington’s Birthday
- May 8 (Thursday): Truman Day
- May 26 (Monday): Memorial Day
- July 4 (Friday): Independence Day
- Sept. 1 (Monday): Labor Day
- Oct. 13 (Monday): Columbus Day
- Nov. 11 (Tuesday): Veterans Day
- Nov. 27 (Thursday): Thanksgiving Day
- Dec. 25 (Thursday): Christmas Day

*Note: Missouri’s governor has the authority to grant additional state holidays at any time during the year. If the governor exercises this authority during 2014, the Missouri Department of Higher Education will notify Missouri’s financial aid and higher education communities as soon as possible.



Deputy commissioner honored for contributions to financial aid field

Leroy Wade, deputy commissioner of the Missouri Department of Higher Education, recently received the 2013 Missouri Award from the Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to the field of student financial aid.

Wade was nominated for his wealth of knowledge and experience with the K-20 educational pipeline, stemming from his long career of service to Missouri’s postsecondary community. He is known for his interest in stakeholder perspectives and his personal commitment to putting the needs of students first.

As a department staff member for more than 27 years, Wade has served in various capacities. In his current role as deputy commissioner, he oversees student financial aid, outreach and the certification of proprietary institutions and is the department’s government affairs liaison.

Wade serves on the governing boards of several organizations, including the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs, the Missouri Scholarship Foundation; and Kids Chance of Missouri. In addition to his leadership roles in these organizations, Wade is active in the National Association of State Administrators and Supervisors of Private Schools, the Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel, and the Missouri School College Relations Commission.



Peer counselors promote financial literacy at Missouri S&T

Peer counselors are playing an important role in work being done at the Missouri

University of Science and Technology to promote financial literacy and reduce student loan default rates.

Missouri S&T was one of 34 higher-education institutions to receive a Default Prevention Grant for the 2013-2014 academic year. The Missouri Department of Higher Education awarded total of \$885,724 in grants to improve financial literacy on the state's college campuses. The program requires the department's default prevention unit to work closely with the institutions receiving the grants to develop and share best practices in default prevention. Several institutions are new to the grant program and have made strides in providing information and resources to help students make informed financial decisions.

Missouri S&T, located in Rolla, is one of the new grant recipients. The university's Office of Student Financial Aid identified several initiatives geared toward promoting default prevention on campus.

One of the initiatives created four peer counselor positions to serve as a connection between the student financial aid office and students. The financial aid staff believed student counselors could connect with their peers in a way university staff could not. The peer counselors also assist with the universities newly restructured Miner Money Management (M3) financial literacy program.

Shortly after being hired, the student peer counselors got to work brainstorming and setting goals for the first M3 event of the year. A "Budgeting 101" session held during lunch time offered financial information and free pizza.

The event, which attracted 55 students, began with a balloon-juggling activity to illustrate how much could be "juggled" at once. A PowerPoint about effective budgeting was presented, and handouts offering money management resources and a budget worksheet were provided to the students. The peer counselors were on hand to answer questions while students created their own individual budget.

The peer counselors have hosted two more M3 events so far this year. "Credit Basics" featured a game to illustrate how a person's credit score is affected by their financial decisions. "Healthy on a Budget," included grocery price comparisons and making inexpensive, healthy trail mix. The combination of food, peer-led presentations and shared information has contributed to the success of the M3 program.

In addition to the M3 events, the peer counselors expect to be busy throughout the year contacting student organizations to implement financial literacy initiatives. The counselors also update the university's financial literacy website, Facebook and Twitter pages, providing relevant information to their peers.

Now in its 13th year, the Default Prevention Grant Program awards funds through a competitive application process to colleges and universities for default prevention initiatives. The maximum grant amount per year is \$25,000.



Federal updates added to 'The Source'

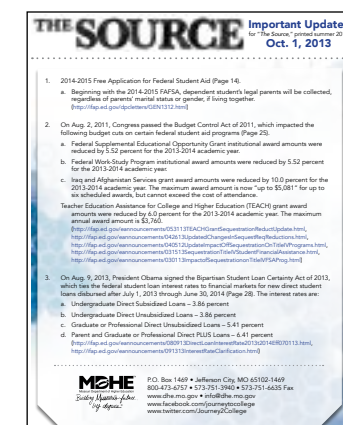
The Missouri Department of Higher Education has added a one-page information sheet to its online version of "The Source" to provide updates about U.S. Department of Education student aid programs.

Published annually, "The Source" includes information for students and families about planning and paying for college, including a variety of funding resources for postsecondary expenses. The publication can be [viewed](#) and [ordered online](#).

The information sheet about federal student aid will be available only to view and download online. It will not be included with orders for "The Source" that are shipped. High school counselors and college access professionals are encouraged to make copies of the information sheet available to their students.

Copies of "The Source" can be ordered by completing the department's Online Publication Order Form at: <https://web.dhe.mo.gov/dhe/forms/publications/puborderform1.faces>.

For more information about the information sheet, contact Lesley Hendrix, MDHE training services coordinator, at lesley.hendrix@dhe.mo.gov or 573-526-0687.



Seven colleges receive grants to expand nursing education programs

■ **Avila University, Kansas City**

■ **Maryville University, St. Louis**

■ **St. Charles Community College**

■ **Truman State University, Kirksville**

■ **University of Missouri-Columbia**

■ **University of Missouri-St. Louis**

■ **William Jewell College, Liberty**

Seven Missouri colleges and universities have been selected to receive grants of up to \$150,000 to expand their nursing education programs. A total of \$1 million was awarded by the Department of Higher Education and the Missouri Board of Nursing, which provided funding for the grants.

The goal of the grant program is to increase the number of nurses in Missouri, especially in areas where a shortage of health care professionals exists. The funds will be used to add faculty and create new programs that will allow more students to study nursing.

Grant amounts range from about \$118,000 to \$150,000. The recipients were selected by the Missouri Board of Nursing and the Department of Higher Education through a competitive application process.

The funds can be used to:

- Add faculty positions in nursing education programs
- Recruit and retain highly qualified faculty for nursing education programs
- Develop accelerated graduate nursing programs
- Provide scholarships or training to develop faculty who will commit to teach in a Missouri school of nursing for at least three years
- Develop new clinical partnerships for training new nurses
- Expand the use of technology to support nursing education programs

The nursing education grant initiative is in the final year of a three-year program.

For more information about how each institution plans to use its grant, visit dhe.mo.gov/NursingGrantRecipients2013.php.

“The Missouri Board of Nursing is to be commended for providing the funds to make these nursing education grants possible,” said David Russell, commissioner of higher education. “The latest round of grants will help prepare additional well-trained nurses to meet Missouri’s growing health care needs.”

USDE releases 2014-2015 Federal School Code list

The initial [2014-2015 Federal School Code List](#) is now available on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals website. The list contains information students need to fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The Missouri Department of Higher Education encourages financial aid officers and high school guidance counselors to download and print a copy of the 2014-2015 Federal School Code List to assist students who are planning to take college courses during the 2014-2015 academic year.

The Federal School Code List contains unique codes assigned by the U.S. Department of Education to schools participating in [Title IV federal student aid programs](#). Students continuing their education beyond high school use the codes to indicate which postsecondary schools will receive the information they report on their [FAFSA](#). The Federal School Code List is only available electronically as a PDF or Microsoft Excel file.

To update Federal School Code information, staff at postsecondary institutions participating in Title IV programs can go to the Electronic Application for Approval to Participate in the Federal Student Financial Aid Programs (E-App) website, located at <http://eligcert.ed.gov>. Click on “Update your Federal School Code Addresses, which are used by the FAFSA” on the left side of the page under the “Other Features” section.

Note: A school can list only one city and state for each Federal School Code. Changes to the file do not update a school’s name or address in any other U.S. Department of Education database. To change the official name or address of a school, an update application must be submitted through the [E-App website](#).

For help with the [E-App website](#), contact the Missouri Federal Student Aid School Participation Team at 816-268-0410.



Download the 2014-2015 Federal School Code List. Missouri institutions are listed on pages 71-75.



New report ranks Missouri 12th in number of international students

State also sees increase in students studying abroad



Read the report from the Institute of International Education.



Visit the Study Missouri website for more information about international education.

A new report released in November ranks Missouri 12th in the nation in the number of international students enrolled at the state's colleges and universities.

More than 17,300 international students – an increase of 7.7 percent – chose Missouri as their destination for higher education during the 2012-2013 academic year, according to the Institute of International Education's Open Doors 2013 report. The state previously ranked 13th nationwide in the number of international students.

The number of Missouri students studying abroad also increased, from 4,650 to 4,938.

"International education fosters an exchange of cultural experiences and ideas on our campuses and in our communities that is crucial in our global society," said Britta Wright, chair of Study Missouri and director of international student services at Columbia College. "We are pleased to see an increasing number of foreign students coming to Missouri for higher education opportunities as well as more Missourians studying in other countries."

"International education fosters an exchange of cultural experiences and ideas on our campuses and in our communities that is crucial in our global society."

—Britta Wright, *chair of Study Missouri*

Study Missouri is a consortium of more than 40 colleges and universities that promotes the state's diverse academic opportunities to students in other countries and study-abroad opportunities for Missouri students.

More than one-third of international students studying in Missouri are from China. Other countries with the highest number of students in the state are India, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Japan. Missouri universities enrolling the largest numbers of international students are: University of Missouri-Columbia, 2,490 students; Washington University, 2,235 students; Missouri State University, 1,482 students; University of Missouri-Kansas City, 1,287 students; and Lindenwood University, 1,245 students.

The report also examines the economic impact of international education. Total expenditures by foreign students in Missouri were estimated at more than \$452 million during the 2012-2013 academic year.



New Missouri Learning Standards website launched

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Missouri Department of Higher Education have launched a new website to provide information about Missouri's Learning Standards for students in kindergarten through grade 12.

The standards are designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college and careers. The new website, www.MissouriLearningStandards.com, contains news, resources, videos and information for parents, teachers, community members and school administrators.

"We support the new Missouri Learning Standards because they align with college-level content and expectations," said David Russell, commissioner of higher education. "We believe the standards will help Missouri students be better prepared for the rigor of college."

The Missouri Learning Standards align with the state's broader Show-Me Standards for student performance in elementary and secondary school and provide grade-level and course-level expectations for student learning in the following subjects:

- English language arts and literacy
- Mathematics

- Science
- Social Studies
- World languages
- Fine arts
- Health/physical education
- Guidance and counseling
- Career and technical education

The standards include the Common Core State Standards for English and mathematics.

"The Missouri Learning Standards are vital to Missouri becoming a top 10 state in education by 2020," said Chris Nicastro, commissioner of education. "It is important that we offer the public and our partners in education accurate information for our children to be successful."



Watch Missouri's Teacher of the Year nominees discuss the Common Core State Standards.



Web page to provide financial aid updates



Visit the new
Financial Aid
Developments
Web page.

The Missouri Department of Higher Education has created a new [Web page](#) to provide information about changes to federal student aid programs.

New information, including updates to the Federal Register and General Announcements, will be posted monthly on the “Financial Aid Developments” Web page located on the department’s website. The information also will be sent electronically to subscribers. Individuals

can sign up to receive the updates using the online E-Subscribe Communications form at <http://www.dhe.mo.gov/mdhedigest/signup.php> and selecting the “Send me regulation, compliance, policy updates and Common Manual updates” option.

The new Web page also will include information about compliance issues related to federal student aid programs.

‘Keep Calm and Transfer On’

Conference on Transfer and Articulation set for Jan. 29



Register for
COTA the
conference.

Registration is now open for the 2014 Conference on Transfer and Articulation.

The conference, sponsored by the Missouri Committee on Transfer and Articulation (COTA), will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2014, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City. The conference will focus on issues of interest to college and university academic officers, transfer and articulation officers, administrators, faculty, advisors, and counselors.

The theme of this year’s event is “Keep Calm and Transfer On: Pathways to Degree Completion.”

Conference sessions will include information about:

- Reverse transfer
- Dual enrollment and dual credit
- STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education
- Developmental education
- Importing transfer equivalencies
- Transfer course library
- Electronic transcripts
- Military credit

For more information about the conference, visit www.dhe.mo.gov/cota/cotaconference.php.

Financial literacy resource wins national design award



The Missouri Department of Higher Education recently received honors from Graphic Design USA for its “Planning For Financial Success” calendar, a personal finance publication distributed to Missouri college students.

Amanda Brown, creative director for the department, submitted the calendar, along with several other department-designed publications and logos, to GDUSA’s annual design competition earlier this year.

“Planning For Financial Success” was one of the two department submissions selected to receive a “Certificate of Excellence.” The calendar was among 8,000 entries submitted to GDUSA’s 2013 design competition; only 15 percent were recognized for excellence in design.

The calendar was first introduced in 2009 to Missouri financial aid officers to order for their students.

The publication offers financial literacy and money management tips to help guide students through the academic year and

includes stickers to customize the calendar for school deadlines and events.

The department’s default prevention team reviews and updates the calendar each year and incorporates it into customized, financial literacy presentations. The 2013-2014 calendar features Karen Ragsdale, an A+ scholarship recipient and student at Ozarks Technical Community College in Springfield, Mo., on the front cover.

For five decades, Graphic Design USA has sponsored design competitions that spotlight excellence for creative professionals. GDUSA’s American Graphic Design Awards is the biggest and broadest of these competitions and is open to everyone in the creative community, including advertising agencies, graphic design firms, corporations, universities, associations, governmental organizations, publishers and others.

To order the “Planning For Financial Success” calendar and other department resources, complete and submit a Publication Order Form at <https://web.dhe.mo.gov/dhe/forms/publications/puborderform1.faces>.

For additional information about the calendar, contact [Marilyn Landrum](#), MDHE student associate – default prevent, or [Sarah Schedler](#), MDHE program specialist – default prevention.

A “Certificate of Excellence” was also awarded for the Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel conference logo. The logo was created by Brown based on the conference theme “Measuring Up To Success.”



Download a
PDF version
of “Planning
For Financial
Success.”





Volunteers needed for 2014 FAFSA Frenzy events



FAFSA Frenzy is a program of College Goal SundaySM.

Volunteers are still needed to assist Missouri families with filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid during the 2014 FAFSA Frenzy. A total of 81 events will be held at 77 sites in 46 counties across the state. The primary date for the event is Sunday, Feb. 9, 2014, with additional events scheduled throughout January, February and March.

The FAFSA is the primary application used by federal and state agencies and higher education institutions to determine a student's eligibility for grants, loans, scholarships and work-study programs.

The Missouri Department of Higher Education expects more than 2,000 students to participate in the upcoming FAFSA Frenzy events.

Individuals interested in volunteering at a FAFSA Frenzy event must [submit an application form](#) to the Department of Higher Education.

Volunteers do not need to be financial aid experts to assist at a FAFSA Frenzy site. In addition to helping families complete the FAFSA, volunteers are needed to staff registration tables, direct parking and serve refreshments.

Volunteers assisting families with the FAFSA form will have access to a toll-free volunteer support line during the main event on Feb. 9, 2014, to help answer the complicated questions that sometimes arise.

FAFSA Frenzy events also will offer students information about federal and state student financial aid programs and a chance to win a scholarship that can be used at a Missouri college or university for the fall 2014 term.

In 2013, a record 1,470 students completed the FAFSA form during FAFSA Frenzy events.

During the 2011-2012 academic year, Missouri students received \$2.4 billion in federal financial aid and \$1.1 billion in financial aid from other sources including scholarships and grants from the state and colleges and universities.

FAFSA Frenzy is offered in Missouri through partnerships between the Department of Higher Education, the Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel, the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority, the Lumina Foundation and USA Funds.

Since 2003, FAFSA Frenzy has helped nearly 11,000 Missouri students complete the FAFSA.

For more information about the FAFSA Frenzy, visit <http://dhe.mo.gov/ppc/collegegoalsundayFAO.php>.



The College Goal SundaySM program was created by the Indiana Student Financial Aid Association with funding from Lilly Endowment, Inc. and with supplemental support from Lumina Foundation for Education. The program is managed by USA Funds

College Application Week assists more than 2,000 Missouri students



Participating high schools provided time and resources during the school day for all seniors interested in applying to colleges. Volunteers worked one-on-one with students to help them submit applications.

The department plans to expand the event to include additional schools next year.

"A college degree contributes to a good quality of life and a strong economy," says David Russell, commissioner of higher education. "We believe this program offers students important information about college preparedness and the application process."

College Application Week is part of the American College Application Campaign, supported by the American Council on Education and modeled after an approach first developed in North Carolina. Missouri was one of 25 states participating in College Application Week this year.

More than 3,600 college applications were submitted by just over 2,000 students during Missouri's first College Application Week. The pilot program was held Oct. 21-25 at 26 high schools in the Kansas City and St. Louis areas and the south central part of the state.

The primary goal of the event was to increase the number of college applications from low-income students and students who would be the first in their families to attend college.

Event organizers report that nearly 3,800 students participated in a variety of activities to promote the importance of postsecondary education.

College Application Week was sponsored by the Missouri Department of Higher Education with assistance from the Missouri College Advising Corps, a group of recent college graduates working in high schools with a large percentage of students who are less likely to attend college.



Check out the Missouri Department of Higher Education's YouTube channel.

Now featuring college preparatory videos on a variety of topics, including:

- Applying for a Federal Student Aid PIN
- Federal Student Aid 2013-2014
- Finding Your Financial Aid History with National Student Loan Data System-Student Access
- Paying for College
- Seven Steps to Applying for Financial Aid
- Statutory and Regulatory Changes (Effective July 1, 2013)
- Using FAFSA4caster to Make Decisions on Preparing & Paying for College

To learn more about current and upcoming videos, contact Lesley Hendrix, training services coordinator, at lesley.hendrix@dhe.mo.gov.

